



# REJUVENATING INDIANA'S OUTDOORS

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 5, 2006

## IDEM Improves Indiana's Environment and Saves Hoosier Taxpayer Dollars

At the urging of Governor Daniels, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) reorganized its agency to better serve Hoosiers and saved over \$1.4 million annually.

IDEM's Confidential Technical Assistance Program provided assistance to over 3,600 phone inquiries and 950 Indiana businesses.

IDEM continues to improve by decreasing the permit renewal backlog and creating a number of regulatory actions to protect and enhance Indiana's environment.

## Forestry Division Strategic Plan in Place

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently released the first Forestry Division strategic plan.

Timber management revenue is estimated to increase \$2-3 million over the next two years with the economic impact to the state estimated at \$20-30 million annually. Due to the Forestry Division strategic plan, 100% of this increase will now be placed directly into forestry management projects.

Monies will be used to create research areas to improve education on forestry management, acquire more tracts of land as state forests and give assistance to private landholders wishing to properly manage their land.

## Governor Daniels Announces Increased Funding for Trails Development

Governor Mitch Daniels announced at the May 31st trails conference that state government will double its financial support of trails development in the next fiscal year from \$10 million to \$20 million annually.

In conjunction with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Transportation, Daniels has designed a comprehensive state plan to better connect Hoosiers.

This proposal will increase tourist destinations as well as support health and fitness initiatives across the state. Economic growth, a key theme in Daniels' Administration, plays a major role in the development of this undertaking as the expansion of recreational activities will bring more tourism dollars to the State.



Governor Mitch Daniels joins DNR officials to promote the Rails to Trails project across Indiana.

## Goose Pond Open for Public Use

With the state's biggest purchase in 57 years, land offered for sale by a private owner is now being restored to its natural wetland state under the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates the project will be completed by 2010.

Public use of this land will provide a multitude of opportunities for outdoor recreation from bird watching to hiking, promoting economic development and adding invaluable tourism dollars into the small businesses across this region and the State.

## Alternative Fuels Promote Cleaner Air for Hoosiers

Governor Mitch Daniels continues to support environmental efforts to clean up Indiana's air as the state celebrated its 40th public E85 pump in Greenfield on July 12, 2006. Many more E85 pumps are planned to open across the state, including pumps at Meijer stores. These additional public pumps will help boost alternative fuels consumption by Hoosiers.

"Indiana is rapidly emerging as a producer of renewable fuels. That must be matched by greater convenience for consumers," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

When Governor Daniels took office, the state had no public E85 pumps. The state reached its goal of 40 pumps open for use six months ahead of schedule.



Governor Mitch Daniels refuels RV1 with biodiesel from Wolf Lake.